

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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R 251449Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 724

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 3201

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HO

SUBJECT: THIRD COUNTRY ISSUES

REF: STATE 172095

1. I HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS WITH REGARD TO
ISSUES POSED IN REFTEL:

(1) THE GOH IS IN FAVOR OF WORKING OUT A PROPOSAL
IN SAN JOSE TO END SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA;

(2) THE GOH HAS REITERATED THAT IT WOULD NOT
AUTOMATICALLY RENEW RELATIONS WITH CUBA IF THE
SANCTIONS WERE LIFTED. HOWEVER, ANY RECIPROCAL
U.S.-CUBAN MOVES WOULD BE FOLLOWED VERY CLOSELY
BY THE GOH TO DETERMINE IF THE U.S. INTENDED
TO RENEW RELATIONS. THE HONDURANS WOULD PROBABLY
INITIATE SIMILAR MOVES OF THEIR OWN TO BE PREPARED
TO RENEW RELATIONS WITH CUBA IF THE U.S. DOES;

(3) THE GOH HAS CONSISTANTLY SUPPORTED PANAMA
IN ITS POSITION ON THE CANAL IN INTERNATIONAL
FORA AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THAT SUPPORT.
IT HOPES THAT THE USSUE CAN BE SATISFACTORILY
RESOLVED IN A NEW TREATY;

(4) ANY BREAKDOWN IN THE CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATION
WOULD BE INTERPRETED IN FAVOR OF PANAMA. HONDURAS
WOULD BE COMPELLED BY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO
SUPPORT PANAMA IN SUCH A SITUATION AS AN EXAMPLE
OF LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY; AND

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(5) HONDURAS JOINED VENEZUELA AND QUITO IN THE

PROTEST AGAINST THEIR EXCLUSION FROM PARTICIPATION
IN TRADE ACT PREFERENCES IN THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
FAILURE TO HAVE THE TRADE ACT MODIFIED IN FAVOR
OF THOSE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD PLACE THE GOH IN THE
POSITION OF HAVING TO SUPPORT ANY FUTURE PROTESTS
THEY RAISE IN THE OAS ABOUT THE ISSUE. THIS POSITION
IS BASED UPON DISPLAYING SOLIDARITY WITH LATIN
AMERICAN CAUSES AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT
HONDURAS DEPENDS UPON VENEZUELA FOR ITS PETROLEUM
SUPPLIES.
SANCHEZ

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